

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT O 00122 141433Z  
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-06 FBO-02 MMO-01 SP-02 /017 W  
-----141825Z 042883 /43

R 141356Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 218  
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 0122

DEPT FOR SY, ARA, AND FBO

CARACAS FOR RSO

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ASEC, ABLD, PFOR, TD  
SUBJECT: ASSIGNMENT OF MARINE SECURITY GUARDS  
TO EMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

1. AS CULMINATION OF REPEATED EFFORTS DURING 1976 TO WIN THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO GOVERNMENT'S (GOTT) ACQUIESCENCE TO THE POSTING OF MARINE SECURITY GUARDS (MSG) AT THE EMBASSY, AND REPEATED GOTT SILENCE IN RETURN, I DELIVERED A FORMAL NOTE TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON DECEMBER 16. IN A PRIVATE LUNCHEON JANUARY 12, I PRESSED FOREIGN MINISTER DONALDSON FOR SOME RESPONSE TO OUR REQUEST. DONALDSON REFRAINED FROM BEING PINNED DOWN DIRECTLY ON THE SUBJECT, BUT INDICATED GOTT UNDERSTANDING OF THE EMBASSY'S DESIRE TO HAVE ITS OWN SECURITY PERSONNEL AND AFFIRMED THAT THIS WAS ACCEPTABLE.

2. DONALDSON REPEATEDLY STATED THAT THE ISSUE WAS "POLITICAL," AND THAT THAT WAS THE REASON WE HAD RECEIVED NO DIRECT REPLY. HE CITED PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS' DIRECT AVERSION TO ANYTHING "MILITARY."  
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NEVERTHELESS, HE INDICATED NO OBJECTION TO THE INTRODUCTION OF AMERICAN SECURITY PERSONNEL IF WE DOWN-PLAYED THE MILITARY ASPECT AND AVOIDED UNIFORMS.

3. ON THE BASIS OF THIS CONVERSATION, I BELIEVE WE HAVE SUFFICIENT AUTHORIZATION TO PROCEED WITH THE PLANNED MSG CONTINGENT HERE. WE HAVE TACIT ACCEPTANCE,

AND IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE GOTT IS WILLING TO GIVE US  
A MORE FORMAL GO AHEAD IN VIEW OF THEIR OWN OPINIONS  
ON THE SUBJECT.

4. I THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT ASSIGNMENT ACTION BE  
STARTED FOR THE EMPLACEMENT OF A NORMAL MSG CONTINGENT  
AT THIS EMBASSY AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE IN 1977. AS SOON  
AS DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL IS INDICATED, WE WILL PROCEED  
TO OBLIGATE HOUSING.

5. IT WILL BE NECESSARY IN THE BEGINNING FOR MSG'S  
TO STAND THEIR WATCHES IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES, ALTHOUGH  
IN A REASONABLY SHORT TIME I WOULD EXPECT TO SHIFT THEM  
TO UNIFORM WHILE ON DUTY IN THE CHANCERY. IT WOULD  
STILL BE NECESSARY NOT WAER UNIFORMS ON THE STREET,  
HOWEVER, AND THE TRADITIONAL MARINE CORPS BALL MAY  
HAVE TO BE OMITTED HERE.

6. THE FORTHCOMING ASSIGNMENT OF MARINES ONCE MORE  
HIGHLIGHTS OUR NEED FOR PROMPT APPROVAL OF PENDING  
CHANCERY EXPANSION PLANS HERE. WE MUST HAVE ENHANCED  
ENTRANCE CONTROL, RECEPTION AREA, NCIOC OFFICE, AND A  
UNIFORM CHANGING AND CLOSET SPACE. THESE FACILITIES  
ALONG WITH CRITICALLY NEEDED CONSULAR SPACE AND  
VISITOR CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE INCORPORATED IN  
THE PLANNED EXPANSION, BUT AS DEPT AWARE, WE LITERALLY  
HAVE NOWHERE TP ACCOMMODATE ANYONE AT THE MOMENT.  
FAY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROTECTIVE SECURITY, PHYSICAL SECURITY, DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, SECURITY GUARDS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ASSIGNMENT OF MARINE SECURITY GUARDS TO EMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
**TAGS:** ASEC, ABLD, PFOR, TD, MSG  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009